

fake: "This argument is undoubtedly made by the patent medicine men who are engaged in promoting drug habits in the United States for the base purpose of making money, and dread governmental interference."

Differential pressure is still the all-absorbing problem of thoracic surgery. If this question is

PROGRESS IN THORACIC SURGERY.

satisfactorily solved and a small, convenient, ever-ready apparatus evolved, the technic of surgery of the thoracic cavity will make rapid strides. A year ago the JOURNAL said, editorially, that the Meltzer-Auer method was certainly the most important contribution to the subject which had appeared and recent work with this apparatus by different experimenters, both in Europe and in this country, would seem to strengthen this view. It has been claimed by many who have argued against intubating the trachea almost to its bifurcation, that injury of this structure would be almost certain to result and that infection of the lungs could easily occur. Such, however, has not happened in the few human cases which up to the present time have been operated upon by this method. The work upon animals has demonstrated clearly that these difficulties are not encountered, although tracheal infections are common in distemper, and Meltzer has lately shown that a true pneumonia may be readily caused in dogs. Quinby recently passed a tracheal tube which was known to be septic and infection of the lungs quickly followed. The air passages of the dog are more prone to infection than has generally been considered. But most observers seem to lose sight of the fact that emphysema may very easily be caused by the Meltzer-Auer method and even perforation of the lung may result in small animals from too great a pressure. It is most important that the pressure at all times be carefully observed and regulated. To the operator the fact that with this method the lungs are practically at rest is a most important feature. In Tiegel's latest work upon the bronchus he notes that heavy respiration has occurred frequently with the use of his face mask, and that this has seriously interfered with his technical work. He has been obliged to adopt the method of Volhard, which consists in a high intubation of the trachea, in order to obviate this difficulty.

The writer recently stated that the new positive pressure cabinet of Janeway and Green in which, by means of an ingenious valve, the air is raised to a pressure of plus ten and rapidly lowered to normal, thus causing the patient to breathe artificially, possessed great merit. Besides inhibiting the movements of the chest wall, thus making the operative work much easier, it does away with the carbon dioxide retention which is such a drawback to most forms of differential pressure apparatus. This statement was promptly controverted by others, and yet the most severe critic of the Meltzer-Auer method, Willy Meyer, now believes that an occasional deflation of the lungs, a change in differential in his cabinet, is necessary in order to get rid of the increased carbon dioxide and that un-

doubtedly the shock which occurs in long operations is due partly at least to this accumulation.

The Meltzer-Auer method has so broadened our horizon that it is not too much to say that a practical solution of this most important problem will soon be made.

R. R.

Why, do you suppose, any manufacturer pays this Society good money for space in your JOURNAL in order to set forth the merits of his goods? Do you think it is just a way he has of getting rid of his superfluous money, or do you regard him as a peripatetic philanthropist? He is not. He has something that you may need, that it may be to your advantage to know about and that he hopes he may sell to you. It is distinctly to your advantage to read the advertising pages of your JOURNAL and to see what things are there offered to you; it is a little difficult, in this world, at least, to know too much and you might as well know all you can—especially when it does not cost you any more. Everything advertised in this JOURNAL is honest and exactly as represented. Look through the advertising pages and see what is there; do it every month. When you buy from an advertiser, let him know that you are a member of the Society and that you know he advertises in your own JOURNAL. It will not hurt you a bit; it will make him feel better and it will help your JOURNAL.

It is singular how people who wish to sell things to eat or drink seem to have the delusion that the particular thing they wish to sell has most wonderful therapeutic value! Food stuffs of the most simple composition become wonderful remedies in the expert hands of the advertisement writer; even water can become a cure-all. "Electric White Diamond Water" seems to be just ordinary water that has had some electricity shot through it. "Ozone is formed in the water. . . . Ozone is the greatest sterilizer known"; and therefore, of course, "electric white diamond water" becomes a wonderful remedy. "It is the only water in the world which has a decided and beneficial effect on the human system." That is certainly a modest and retiring statement, though it sounds more like the language of an "adsmith" than of a scientist. But just absorb this and then rush wildly about until you find some "e. w. d. water": "The electrical action which this water undergoes makes it radio-active, and as such it cannot fail to alleviate all stomach troubles however acute or chronic they may be." Gastro-enterostomy will soon be regarded as a tradition of the early barbaric days—the days before mankind had been blessed with "Electric White Diamond Water"—at four bits a bottle!

The vexing problem of the abuse of medical charity, or the "dispensary evil" has grown lustily for a generation. It became so bad in New York that in 1898 the Dispensary Law was passed and all dispensaries required to be licensed by the State Board of Charities. This has only partly

MEDICAL CHARITY.